

LA PAZ CENTRO/AMHERST SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2005

We in Amherst now support 15 high school scholarship students in La Paz Centro. We have been very successful in fundraising through the annual tag sale and the annual fundraising letter. As a result, we will be able to add another five scholarship students this coming year.

We have an outstanding representative here in Amherst, Mary Santiago, who is fluent in Spanish and keeps a very close connection with our La Paz Sister City chair, Julio Carrasco. Each year we pay for one trip for Mary to La Paz in order to keep the connection alive.

Over the past six years, three delegations from Amherst have visited and helped to build a preschool, community center and computer center. We also receive donations of computers, which, in general, are carried over by delegations and visitors. These efforts are not supported monetarily by the Committee as the delegation members fundraise separately for their trips and projects.

The Committee has approved the funding of a satellite so that the computer center in La Paz can be connected to the internet. This will supply the citizens with a wealth of information that is not otherwise accessible to them.

Finally, the Committee supports workshops for the preschool teachers as well as providing supplies for the preschool annually.

The Committee members are enthusiastic and active, committed to a program that is highly valued and appreciated in La Paz Centro, Nicaragua.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Z. Stanek, Chair
Charles Milch, Treasurer